



## MEMORANDUM

**To: MD-EDRS Funeral Directors**  
**From: Lee Hurt, Director, Vital Statistics Administration**  
**Subject: Reporting of COVID-19 Deaths**  
**Date: 3/19/2020**

---

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has highlighted the importance of reporting Coronavirus Disease 2019 or COVID-19 on the death certificate for all decedents where it is confirmed that the disease caused or contributed to death.

In order to have accurate reporting, medical certifiers have been instructed to wait for confirmation of COVID-19 infection results before attesting the medical information. Additionally, any records submitted for registration that indicate 'possible' or 'suspected' COVID-19 infection will be flagged until confirmation is received.

This new process may delay the registration of death certificates where it is suspected that COVID-19 caused or contributed to death. We are also aware that this will have an impact on the families that you serve and we ask for your understanding and patience during this rapidly evolving public health event. Please do not hesitate to contact us by email at [edrs.help@maryland](mailto:edrs.help@maryland) if you should have any questions regarding this new process for the reporting of unconfirmed COVID-19 on death certificates.